

SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST

*A non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England & Wales No: 3294818. Registered Charity No. 1060234
Registered Office: c/o Sleaford Town Council, The Town Hall, Quayside House, Navigation Yard, Sleaford
NG34 7TW*

Directors' Annual Report, December 2025

This is the twenty-ninth annual report of the Directors of the Trust and covers the year to 31st December, 2025. The company was incorporated on 19th December, 1996 and its full name is the Sleaford Navigation Trust. A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales No. 03294818, the Trust is also a registered charity No. 1060234. The governing documents of the Trust are the memorandum and articles of association which have been approved by the Charity Commission.

The Directors of the Trust during the year to 31st December 2025 were:

Christine Hayes (Chairman)	David Carnell
Stephen Hayes (Secretary)	Penny Carnell
Debbie Scott	Will Pickworth (Treasurer)
Susan Sowerby	Robin Saul
Melvyn Sowerby	

No director may remain in office for more than three years without seeking re-election.

The Trust registered office is c/o Sleaford Town Council, The Town Hall, Quayside House, Navigation Yard, Sleaford NG34 7TW

General correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary at 10 Chelmer Close, Lincoln. LN6 8TH.

The main Agents of the Trust are:

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc

Auditors: Amanda Jay of Sleaford

Membership Secretary: Jenny Osborne, Bank House, Ruskington Fen, Billinghay, Lincoln, LN4 4DS

Objectives, Organisation and Activities

The Company was established to stimulate public interest in and appreciation of the history, structure and beauty of the waterway known as the Sleaford Navigation or Kyme Eau and to promote the restoration and preservation of the waterway for navigation and other purposes.

The Trust

- is organised and controlled by its Directors who provide their services on a volunteer basis as members of the Executive Board which meets monthly, or more frequently if necessary, to formulate and implement strategy and to review progress. There are no paid or seconded staff.
- is a corporate member of the Inland Waterways Association which shares certain objectives with the Trust and provides help and support nationally and locally to all organisations engaged in waterway restoration.
- is a member of the National Community Boat Association.
- is a member of the Sleaford Sports Partnership.
- produces its own newsletter which is circulated to members.
- has a website www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk and a Facebook page.

Review of Progress and Achievements

During the year, the Trust has continued the publicity campaign undertaken in previous years. Executive Board meetings were either face-to-face or conducted by Zoom.

Representatives of the Trust attended

- A talk about the navigation given to NK Seniors
- NK Heritage Strategy Meeting IBCC
- Catch up meeting with potential volunteers in Sleaford
- Meeting with Tony Mabbott & Michelle Tasker from NKDC re. potential works at Haverholme.
- Meetings of South Kyme Working Group consisting of representatives from SNT, SKPC and the EA.
- Northern Canals Association Meeting, Langley Mill. Presentation given about the Trip Boat Project.
- Talk about the navigation given to Sleaford Museum Group
- UKSPF meeting
- Meeting with Mark Stuart & Neil Chadwick of NKDC regarding the licensing of the trip boat and skippers.
- Skipper training for the Trip Boat in Chesterfield
- Work parties at Taylors Lock and in Sleaford (vegetation). There have also been many separate work parties fitting out the trip boat.
- Preliminary meetings regarding RiverLight and participation in the event with a gazebo at Eastgate Green.
- Talk about the navigation given to Sleaford Ladies Probus Group
- Heckington Show with a display in the Heritage Marquee.
- A stand at the Classic Car & Motor Cycle Show in Sleaford.
- Talk about the navigation given to Sutton-on-Trent Local History Group
- Talk about the navigation given to Old Sleaford Heritage Group
- Talk about the navigation given to Rotary Club of Sleaford
- Sleaford Christmas Market with a display in the marquee

The Trust continued to be part of the NKDC Good Cause Lottery receiving funds from the sale of tickets. The Handley Cup was moved to Navigation House where it is displayed.

There have been many meetings and consultations regarding the river channel clearance. Contractors removed some of the reeds in March but we were informed, rather unexpectedly, by the Environment Agency that, because the Slea at this point is a salmonid river, work on the river bed can only take place between June and September.

We have planning permission for the landing stage at Cogglesford subject to various conditions; soil investigation and boring to determine the siting of the piles, tree management and protection during and after the build and environmental enhancement in the form of coir roll installation opposite the site. Materials for the landing stage have been bought and are in storage ready for use.

All these activities have involved many hours of volunteer time. A sincere thank you to all those involved. Particular mention to David Pullen who has indicated that he wants to step down as Honorary Engineer at the end of the current trip boat project. Sincere thanks are also due to David and Penny Carnell who have made the decision to retire from being Directors of the Trust after many years of valued service.

We are all seriously indebted to all three of them.

Review of Financial Activities and Affairs

The resources available are considered adequate to enable the Trust to continue its work effectively at this stage of the restoration programme. The Trust's assets are adequate to fulfil all its obligations and there are no commitments which are required to be disclosed in this report or the notes to the accounts. The Trust is registered for VAT.

For and on behalf of the Executive Board
Steve Hayes,
Director & Secretary